



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**  
New York District

## PASSAIC RIVER BASIN, NJ

### Ecosystem Restoration

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#### FACT SHEET

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**DESCRIPTION:** The Passaic River Basin drains an area of 935 square miles of which 787 are in New Jersey and 148 are in New York. Seven major tributaries bring water into the main stem of the Passaic River, which empties into Newark Bay. More than 2.5 million people live in the basin (1990 census) and about 20,000 homes and places of business lie in the Passaic River Floodplain. The lower portion of the basin is highly urbanized with significant development in its natural floodplains. The Passaic River, including adjacent river shorelines, has been subject to repeated degradation as a result of historic and ongoing industrial and commercial activities, along with the associated impacts of urban development. This degradation, particularly in the lower portion, has resulted in significant losses to floodplains, fish spawning habitat, benthic habitat, wetlands, waterfowl nesting areas, and other valuable fish and aquatic and terrestrial habitat areas. In addition, the natural hydrologic regime of the basin has been altered by the construction of numerous flood control structures within the basin.

**AUTHORIZATION/PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** This study is authorized by a U.S. House of Representatives resolution dated 11 April 2000.

**STATUS:** The Reconnaissance Study, Section 905(b) Report, was completed in October 2001. This report determined that there is Federal interest in ecosystem restoration in the Passaic River Basin. At this time, the Corps of Engineers (USACE) has identified the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission (NJDWSC) and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) as potential sponsors to participate in a cost shared feasibility study. The Corps has met with both of these potential sponsors to discuss the strategy of a joint sponsorship of the feasibility study. Negotiations between the NJDWSC and NJDEP are on-going to determine sponsorship. Once the sponsorship has been established, a Project Management Plan (PMP) will be developed that describes the study activities, schedule and estimated cost of the study. Using the PMP as a reference for the study cost and duration, a Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement will be negotiated and executed between the USACE and the non-Federal sponsor prior to initiating the Feasibility study.

#### PROJECT COST:

Estimated Reconnaissance Federal Cost	\$200,000
Estimated Non-Federal Reconnaissance Cost	0
Total	<hr/> \$200,000

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